

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 7-12. Claims 7 and 9 stand rejected and claims 8 and 10-12 were objected to. In this Response, claims 7, 8 and 10-12 have been amended and no claims have been added or cancelled. Thus, claims 7-12 are pending in the application.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Drawings

In Office Action paragraph 2, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically mentioned were the features of "identification area, authentication area, comparing, and calculating an identification code." Applicants respectfully disagree.

Figs. 1 and 2 show examples of the claimed features mentioned above. An identification area (2) is shown in Fig. 1. See the Preliminary Amendment, page 6, lines 17-24. Fig. 2 shows an authentication area (AF). See the Preliminary Amendment, page 8, lines 19-25. A comparison device (5) which compares the detected biometric features with the biometric features stored in the memory (4) is shown in Fig. 1. See the Preliminary Amendment at page 7, lines 5-11. Fig. 1 shows a computation device (6) which calculates an identification code (PIN). See the Preliminary Amendment at page 8, lines 3-9.

Thus, Applicants submit that the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Abstract

In Office Action paragraph 3, the Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to as being combined with the Substitute Specification rather than being on a separate sheet.

In response, the Substitute Specification has been amended to delete the Abstract of the Disclosure. Also, the Abstract of the Disclosure from the Substitute Specification is attached on a separate sheet.

Thus, Applicants submit that the objection to the Abstract has been overcome.

Claim Objections

In Office Action paragraph 4, claims 8 and 10-12 were objected to as depending on claims that have been canceled.

In response, claims 8 and 10-12 have been amended to properly depend from pending claims. Specifically, claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 7, claims 10 and 11 now depend from claim 9, and claim 12 now depends from claim 11. Thus, Applicants submit that the objections to the claims have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

In Office Action paragraph 6, claims 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The text of claims 7 and 9 is reproduced below with reference numbers and reference letters inserted into the claim text. The reference numbers and reference letters inserted into the claim text is merely for reference purposes for understanding the example of the present

invention shown in the Figures and described in the Specification. The reference numbers and letters inserted into the claim text are not intended to limit the claims.

Claim 7: An apparatus for biometric identification of a person, who has an authentication area (AF) containing biometric features, comprising:

a sensor (1) having an identification area (2) for detecting biometric features of a part of the authentication area (AF) which is situated on the identification area (2);

a comparison device (5) for comparing the detected biometric features with biometric features, stored in a memory (4), of a part of the authentication area (AF) of at least one authorized person to determine a relative position of the detected biometric features of a first detected region (A) within the part of the authentication area (AF); and

a computation device (6) for calculating an identification code (PIN), which identifies the person detected by the sensor (1), from the detected biometric features which are not stored in the memory based (4) on the relative position of the biometric features which are stored in the memory (4) within the stored authentication area (AF).

Claim 9: A method for biometric identification of a person, who has an authentication area (AF) containing biometric features, the method comprising the steps of:

storing biometric features of a part of the authentication area (AF) of at least one authorized person;

detecting biometric features of the part of the person's authentication area (AF) which is situated on the identification area (2);

comparing the detected biometric features with the stored biometric features of the authentication area (AF) to determine a relative position of the detected biometric features within the stored part of the authentication area (AF); and

calculating an identification code (PIN) which identifies the person detected by the sensor (1) from the detected biometric features which are not stored in the memory (4) based on the

relative position of the biometric features which are stored in the memory (4) within the stored authentication area (AF).

Applicants refer the Examiner to the Substitute Specification at page 8, line 19 - page 9, line 15 of the Preliminary Amendment. The region B is the region of biometric features which is not stored in the memory (4). The part of the authentication area (AF) which is stored in memory (4) is region A minus region B plus a tolerance region ΔA . The portion of the authentication area (AF) stored in the memory (4) (which is $A - B + \Delta A$) is compared to the region A detected by the sensor (1). If the comparison determines there is a match, the position of the region B (which is not stored in the memory (4)) is determined because of the relationship of the region B to the stored region A. The region B obtained from the sensor (1) is then used to calculate the identification code (PIN) by the computation device (6).

Thus, Applicants submit that the §112, second paragraph, rejections should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

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